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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/628,404	07/29/2003	Noriyuki Suzuki	00862.023154	6374

5514 7590 10/31/2005

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EXAMINER

CHERY, MARDOCHEE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2188

DATE MAILED: 10/31/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/628,404	Applicant(s) SUZUKI ET AL.	
	Examiner Mardochee Chery	Art Unit 2188	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/15/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Handwritten signature

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. At lines 3-4, the recitation "cash content flash processing" was not described in the specification as to enable one of ordinary skill in the art to make or use the invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yamamoto (2002/0032839).

As per claim 1, Yamamoto discloses a storage unit which is detachable from an information processing apparatus, and has a storage medium for storing data from the information processing apparatus and a communication interface with the information processing apparatus [Figs .2, 15; paragraph 12, lines 1-3, paragraphs 13 and 17-18] comprising: input means for inputting eject instruction [Fig.15; par. 17]; output means for externally outputting an eject permission signal in accordance with input of the eject instruction [par.11].

As per claim 2, Yamamoto discloses the unit further comprises state shift means for shifting the storage unit to an ejectable state when the eject instruction is input by said input means, and said output means externally outputs the eject permission signal upon completion of the shift to the ejectable state by said state shift means [pars.18, 121-123, 128].

As per claim 3, Yamamoto discloses the state shift means inhibits reception of an external input to the communication interface, and executes cash content flash processing [par.18].

As per claim 4, Yamamoto discloses output means uses an extra signal line in

the communication interface [par.128].

As per claim 5, Yamamoto discloses input means inputs an eject command as the eject instruction via the communication interface [par.11].

As per claim 6, Yamamoto discloses input means inputs a status of an operation switch as the eject instruction via an extra signal line in the communication interface [par.128].

As per claim 7, Yamamoto discloses the input means further comprises switch input means for inputting a status of an operation switch, and notification means for notifying the information processing apparatus via the communication interface of an operation status of the operation switch on the basis of the status of the operation switch that is input by said switch input means [pars.124 and 127].

As per claim 8, Yamamoto discloses input means can input, as the eject instruction, an eject command issued by the information processing apparatus and a signal from an operation switch, and when the signal from the operation switch is input as an eject signal, said state shift means shifts the storage unit to the ejectable state at the end of data communication between the information processing apparatus and the storage unit [pars.124 and 127].

As per claim 9, Yamamoto discloses the operation switch is arranged in the storage unit [Fig.17].

As per claim 10, Yamamoto discloses providing means for providing a user interface [par. 8]; issuing means for issuing eject instruction to the storage unit in accordance with user operation to the user interface [par.8]; and eject means for ejecting the storage unit on the basis of an eject permission signal which is output from the storage unit in accordance with the eject instruction [par. 11].

As per claim 11, Yamamoto discloses monitoring means for inquiring of the storage unit as to a status of an operation switch, and monitoring a status signal representing the status of the operation switch [pars. 124 and 127]; issuing means for issuing eject instruction to the storage unit in accordance with user operation to a user interface provided by software or the status signal [par. 127]; and eject means for ejecting the storage unit on the basis of an eject permission signal which is output from the storage unit in accordance with the eject instruction [par. 127].

As per claim 12, the rationale in the rejection of claim 1 is herein incorporated. Yamamoto further discloses a providing step of causing the information processing apparatus to provide a user interface [par. 8]; an issuing step of issuing eject instruction to the storage unit in accordance with user operation to the user interface [par. 8]; a

state shift step of shifting the storage unit to an ejectable state in accordance with the eject instruction issued in the issuing step [pars.124 and 127]; an output step of causing the storage unit to output an eject permission signal to the information processing apparatus in accordance with the eject instruction [par.11]; and an eject step of causing the information processing apparatus to eject the storage unit on the basis of the eject permission signal [par.11].

As per claim 13, Yamamoto discloses an acquisition step of inquiring of the storage unit as to an operation status of a switch connected to the storage unit, thereby acquiring the operation status, and in the issuing step, the information processing apparatus issues the eject instruction to the storage unit in accordance with the user operation to the user interface provided by software and the operation status of the switch acquired in the acquisition step [Figs. 15 and 17; pars. 8, 11, 124 and 127].

As per claim 14, the rationale in the rejection of claim 1 is herein incorporated.

As per claim 15, Yamamoto discloses the apparatus further comprises an eject designation switch, and said transmission means transmits the eject instruction to the storage unit in accordance with operation on said switch [pars. 124 and 127].

Conclusion

6. When responding to the office action, Applicant is advised to clearly point out the patentable novelty that he or she thinks the claims present in view of the state of the art disclosed by references cited or the objections made. He or she must also show how the amendments avoid such references or objections. See 37 C.F.R. 1.111(c).

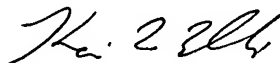
7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mardochee Chery whose telephone number is (571)272-4246. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30A-5:00P.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Manonama Padmanabhan can be reached on (571)272-4210. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

October 26, 2005

Kevin L. Ellis
Primary Examiner



Mardochee Chery
Examiner
AU2188